



## **Language Arts 7 Course Outline 2022-2023**



**Mr. Damocles**

[damoclesd@prsd.ab.ca](mailto:damoclesd@prsd.ab.ca)

587-229-1923

### Welcome to English Language Arts 7!

I'm so excited to have you in my classroom and I am looking forward to getting to know you! We will have a fantastic time together this year. With hard work, regular attendance, and most importantly, a willingness to learn: you will find success in my class.

#### **What is Language Arts?**

The aim of English Language Arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning. Through language, we understand ourselves, each other, and the world around us.

#### **Language Arts 7**

In our Language Arts 7 class, we will explore various units that have unique mediums, genres, and styles of texts. These units will allow us to improve our grammar, our abilities to respond to texts and forms, and express our thoughts,



opinions, and emotions. We will explore our own personal interests and find ways to express them through the various facets of language. The timeline of the course is as follows, but is tentative.

### **Unit 1: Introduction to Language Arts 7 and Fairview High School**

Beginning to Mid-September

This unit will include an introduction to the course and an orientation into the life of a student at Fairview High School. We will learn about each other, the importance of relationships, and the expectations of a junior high student in Language Arts 7.

### **Unit 2: Writing and Linguistics**

Mid-September-November

Our second unit is focused on strengthening our written communication skills and our understanding of the tools that we use in everyday language. We will review sentence structure, parts of speech, and subject-verb agreement. We will learn about the four types of paragraphs, useful transition words, and writing strategies. We will conclude the unit with a parts of speech unit test and an autobiography project.

### **Unit 3: Fractured Fairy Tales**

November-December

Using what we learned in unit two, we will study classic short stories. We will read them and analyze relationships between plot, setting, characters, and other elements of literature. We will learn the elements of a short story and study the film "Hoodwinked" to explore perspective and point of view. We will then use the information we have learned to 'fracture' a fairy tale and make it our own, unique tale.

### **Unit 4: Novel Study**

January-February



In this unit, we will study Canadian author and playwright Jennifer Dance's novel "Hawk," set in Northern Alberta. We will focus on narrative perspective, plot development, and theme. We will conclude the unit writing a persuasive letter to our provincial or federal government addressing Indigenous rights.

### **Unit 5: Film Study**

Mid-February-Mid March

Our film study will be an examination of the film "The Greatest Showman." We will study perspective, point of view, and reality. We will finish off this unit with a written film review.

### **Unit 6: Joint Novel & Play Study**

Mid March-Mid May

For this, we will be reading Norton Juster's novel, "The Phantom Tollbooth," and studying its play adaptation by Susan Nanus. We will use the skills that we've learned this year in both ELA and drama to study and analyze both of these pieces of literature. We will finish off this unit with a dramatic presentation or research presentation. (Student choice)

### **Unit 7: Poetry**

Mid May-June

During our poetry unit, we will explore figurative language and poetic form through a variety of poems. We will learn to identify different poem styles, word classes, and respond to poetry. Students will complete poetry reading comprehensions and write their own poems. We will finish off this unit with a presentation project where students will study and research a poet of their choice and present it in the library.

### **Review**

June

We will use the last month of the year to review course content and prepare for the final exam.



## **Throughout the Year**

Students will be expecting to partake in silent reading and comprehensive literacy activities. Students will have class time to spend in the library to silently read and take out new books. It is recommended that students always have a book while they are in class. During our literacy periods, we will have focused work that will help build integral literacy skills to support students in the classroom. These activities will happen frequently throughout the year and will be integrated into the units.

## **Supplies**

Students will need the following for every class: binder, pens/pencils, loose-leaf paper, their one-to-one device, and a book to read.

## **Evaluation**

Assignments	<b>15%</b>
Projects	<b>40%</b>
Quizzes	<b>5%</b>
Unit Exams	<b>15%</b>
Final Exam	<b>20%</b>

Evaluation of student learning is reported in four terms. Term marks will be based on “Assignments,” “Projects” and “Quizzes.” The final course mark will be a blend of four term marks (75%) plus the final exam mark (25%).

## **Classroom Expectations**

Students are expected to:

- Arrive to class on time with all required materials.
- Show respect to all classmates, educational assistants, the teacher and to themselves.
- Submit all assignments on time.



- Make up for work missed. Students who are absent are responsible for finding out what they missed and completing it. This can be done by asking classmates or emailing the teacher.
- Respect the voices of others and contribute to a safe learning environment for all.
- Come to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to participate.

### **Cell Phones**

We will regularly use technology in the classroom to enhance and facilitate learning, but having and using cell phones is a privilege. Cell phones are not to be used in class without the permission of the teacher.

My classroom expectations and rules align with the Fairview High School student handbook. For any questions, comments or concerns you may have, please refer to the hand book or feel free to contact me directly.